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WAYNE HYDE

THE BREAKAWAY OF WALTER YATES (PART 2)
(INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

(EDITORS: THIS IS PART 2 OF A THREE-PART SERIES)

VOICE: TEXAS REAL ESTATE MAN WALTER YATES HAS AN ADVENTUROUS NATURE, AND HE LOVES THE WILDERNESS. SO HE DID SOMETHING VERY FEW MEN HAVE EVER DONE IN THIS MODERN AGE. HE MADE A BREAKAWAY FROM CIVILIZATION AND WENT TO ALASKA TO BUILD HIS OWN CABIN BY HAND AND TO LIVE OFF THE LAND. HE STAYED THERE FOR A YEAR, ENTIRELY ALONE. HERE IS ----------WITH PART TWO OF THE STORY OF THE BREAKAWAY OF WALTER YATES.

NARR: HE GOT HIS CABIN BUILT BEFORE THE ALASKAN WINTER SET IN, AND SINCE THERE WAS PLENTY OF FISH AND GAME AND WILD BERRIES FOR FOOD, THAT WAS NO PROBLEM. HE HAD A PERMIT TO HUNT AND HE SHOT A MOOSE FOR PART OF HIS FOOD SUPPLY -- BUT ONCE THE WINTER CAME, PREPARING THAT MEAT DID POSE A FEW PROBLEMS.

TAPE: CUT ONE -- YATES

"EVERYTHING IS FROZEN HARD, AND FOR INSTANCE, I HAD A FOOD CACHE BUILT OUTSIDE THE CABIN, UP OFF THE GROUND SO THE WOLVERINESS AND OTHER ANIMALS COULDN'T GET TO MY FOOD. WELL, NATURALLY, YOU TAKE A LEG OF THIS MOOSE -- IT'D BE FROZEN ROCK-HARD. IT SEEMED LIKE IT WOULD TAKE DAYS TO THAW OUT. SO YOU PLANNED YOUR MEALS AHEAD OF TIME. WHEN YOU WANTED TO HAVE MEAT YOU'D GO OUT AND GET IT INTO THE CABIN AND START THAWING IT OUT. AND YOU'D HAVE TO CUT IT UP A LITTLE BIT BEFORE YOU FREEZE IT OR YOU'LL END UP WITH A CHOPPING AXE TRYING TO CUT A STEAK OFF A HIND QUARTER OF A MOOSE."

NARR: MISTER YATES HAD A WOOD-BURNING STOVE ON WHICH HE DID HIS COOKING. HE HAD HAD TO FLY THAT IN FROM ANCHORAGE, ALASKA IN HIS PLANE -- AND IT WAS SO HEAVY THAT HE HAD TO BRING IT IN IN PIECES AND THEN PUT IT TOGETHER IN THE CABIN. THERE WERE MANY HARDSHIPS. THERE WAS NO ONE IN THAT WILDERNESS

NARR: (CONT'D) WITHIN 160 KILOMETERS, NO ONE TO TALK TO -- EXCEPT THROUGH THE USE OF INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE ON A RADIO POWERED BY THE BATTERY IN HIS PLANE. BUT ONLY TWICE WALTER YATES DID GET LONESOME.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- YATES

"...AND THAT WAS THE DAY I HAD MY (51ST) BIRTHDAY -- NO ONE AROUND TO HELP ME CELEBRATE. AND CHRISTMAS. CHRISTMAS WAS INCREDIBLY SAD, IT REALLY WAS. BECAUSE I LOVE CHRISTMAS, AND THE MEMORIES OF HOME AND THE GRANDKIDS (GRANDCHILDREN) AND EVERYTHING, AND BEING THERE ALONE --- I HAD BEEN AWAY FROM HOME ON CHRISTMAS BEFORE -- BUT NEVER HAD I BEEN COMPLETELY ALONE. SO THAT WAS KIND OF BAD."

NARR: SOME SUPPLIES AND MAIL WERE DROPPED TO MISTER YATES AT HIS CABIN SITE BY PILOTS FLYING OVER. HIS COMMUNICATION WITH THEM WAS TWO SIGNAL FLAGS. A GREEN ONE WAS KEPT FLYING ALL DAY LONG. THAT MEANT EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT. HE TOOK THE GREEN FLAG IN AT NIGHT. HE ALSO HAD A RED FLAG. IF THAT WAS DISPLAYED, IT MEANT SOMETHING WAS WRONG AND A PILOT WOULD LAND ON THE NEARBY POST RIVER TO HELP. BUT WALTER YATES NEVER HAD TO DISPLAY HIS RED FLAG. HE SAYS HE NEVER EVEN CAUGHT A COLD. HE DID BREAK AN ANKLE WHILE CROSSING A FROZEN RIVER, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW IT, SO HE DID NOTHING ABOUT IT. HE FOUND OUT ONLY MONTHS LATER HE HAD BROKEN HIS ANKLE, BUT BY THAT TIME IT HAD HEALED.

WALTER YATES SAYS HE WOULD RECOMMEND AN ADVENTURE SUCH AS HE HAD, BUT HE CAUTIONS THAT THE PERSON WHO WANTS TO TRY IT SHOULD TRULY LOVE NATURE AND THE WILDERNESS -- AND SHOULD THOROUGHLY UNDERSTAND WHAT NATURE CAN DO.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- YATES

"HE CAN'T GO OUT AND PRETEND, BECAUSE NATURE WILL DISCOVER IF HE'S TRYING TO FAKE IT. IF YOU DON'T GO OUT THERE MENTALLY PREPARED FOR IT, IT WILL GET YOU. IT IS ROUGH.

TAPE: (CONT'D)

IT'S HARSH. YOU'VE GOT TO BE MENTALLY PREPARED AS WELL AS BEING PREPARED WITH YOUR CLOTHING AND YOUR EQUIPMENT, AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU. FOR INSTANCE, LET'S SAY IT'S FORTY OF FIFTY BELOW ZERO, AND IF THE WIND SUDDENLY COMES UP, YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW THAT IN JUST A VERY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THAT UNPROTECTED SKIN WILL FREEZE. YOU'VE GOT TO KNOW THRESE THINGS; YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE A CHANCE. OH, I WOULD SAY THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE CAPABLE OF DOING THIS. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF DEDICATION AND LOVE. YOU'VE GOT TO REALLY, LITERALLY, LOVE NATURE. AS I SAY, MOTHER NATURE IS PRETTY SMART, AND SHE CAN FIGURE YOU OUT."

NARR: MISTER YATES WENT WELL PREPARED. HE TOOK ALONG MEDICAL SUPPLIES -- MORE THAN HE THOUGHT HE WOULD NEED. A DENTIST EVEN PREPARED FOR HIM AN EMERGENCY DENTAL KIT SO HE COULD PUT A TEMPORARY FILLING IN A TOOTH IF IT NEEDED IT. HE WAS TAKING NO CHANCES. BUT THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE WHO THOUGHT HE WAS CRAZY TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- YATES

"MOST OF MY FRIENDS, JOKINGLY, WOULD INFER THAT I'D LOST MY MARBLES (LOST MY MIND). (LAUGHS) BUT THEY DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH TIME I HAD ALREADY SPENT RESEARCHING. I PLANNED THIS (TRIP), INCIDENTALLY, FOR TWO YEARS. I STUDIED CLIMATOLOGY ON ALASKA, AND THE EFFECTS OF COLD WEATHER, THE FOODS THAT YOU NEED TO COMBAT THE COLD, AND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING. I PROBABLY KNOW MORE ABOUT ALASKA THAN A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE UP THERE BECAUSE I REALLY RESEARCHED IT. AND THAT'S A PREREQUISITE. YOU HAVE TO DO IT IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS."

NARR: WALTER YATES -- WHO BROKE AWAY FROM CIVILIZATION AND LIVED FOR A YEAR IN A SMALL CABIN HE HAD BUILT HIMSELF IN THE ALASKAN WILDERNESS. IN PART THREE OF MISTER YATES' STORY, WE'LL HEAR HIM TELL JUST WHY HE DID THIS -- AND ALSO ABOUT THE MOVIE THAT HE MADE OF HIS ADVENTURE.

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